

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Department: BOCC-3

RESOLUTION NO. 2003

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS OF MONROE COUNTY, FL
COMMENDING CAPTAIN LAWRENCE S.
COTTON, JR., UNITED STATES NAVY, FOR HIS
TENURE AND TOUR OF DUTY IN THE FLORIDA
KEYS.**

WHEREAS, the military is a vital segment of the population and a critical factor to the economic welfare and safety of the Florida Keys; and

WHEREAS, under the tenure and leadership of Captain Lawrence S. Cotton, Jr., United States Navy, the Florida Keys have enjoyed a great sense of community union and economic success with the United States Navy; and

WHEREAS, in a service wide re-aligning process, Key West Naval Air Station was relegated to a Naval Air Facility. With Captain Cotton's understanding of the significance of his expanding mission, he was able to convince the Pentagon and those in charge that this command was, in fact, a Naval Air Station; and

WHEREAS, no accomplishment better exemplifies the sense of community fostered by Captain Cotton than the inter-government mutual aid response of the Naval fire units the morning of August 30, 2001 when a labyrinthine commune composed of a number of dwellings located on the southeast side of Rockland Key, lacking any defined order of ingress or egress, became engulfed in flames creating a maze of confusing passages and smoke, placing the inhabitants in great danger; and

WHEREAS, the NAS fire units responded and repeatedly rotated with other County Fire/EMS personnel, all suffering from heat and smoke inhalation, in what could be viewed as a worst nightmare, to ensure the protection and safety of the inhabitants and firefighters on scene; and

WHEREAS, this sense of community has inspired and realized many monumental accomplishments to benefit the Florida Keys; and

WHEREAS, during Captain Cotton's administration, in 2002 alone, the Florida Keys received the substantial economic benefit of approximately \$370 million; and

WHEREAS, other significant benefits and accomplishments have been realized during Captain Cotton's tenure and leadership, such as:

- Signed Truman Harbor Lease with the City of Key West for cruise ship berthing.
 - First Federal Marina in the Country to receive the Florida Department of Environmental Protection "Clean Marina" Award 2001 and 2002 for Boca Chica Marina, Naval Air Facility, Key West.
 - 2002 Chief of Naval Operations Pollution Prevention Team Award.
 - Geiger Key Boat Ramp officially open for public use based on verbal agreement with Monroe County to add it to their license.
 - Mutual agreement with local law enforcement and fire departments to assist in emergencies and provide various training otherwise only available on the mainland.
 - Hosted 2000 International Peace Talks with Colin Powell and ambassadors.
 - Entered into Memorandum of Agreement between Monroe County School District and NAS to ease student transition for military children.
 - Instrumental in effective and positive efforts toward the maintenance and transfer of military properties to benefit all residents of the Florida Keys such as the Truman Annex Property and Poinciana Housing properties.
 - Hosted critical series of Homeland Defense Radar Tests using radar to detect chemical-biological agents.
 - Hosted NASA Crystall-Face, a NASA field study based at Naval Air Station, Key West, FL conducting lightning research as part of the Alnus Cumulus Electrification Study, AGILE ARCHER 2002 using a remotely piloted aerial vehicle never before used to study lightning;
- and

WHEREAS, Captain Cotton's leadership and commitment to providing for retired military residents and fostering a positive relationship with the community resulted in quality medical services for military residents at the local Naval Medical Facility and, additionally, a variety of services available to both military and civilian personnel through the efforts of a very active and reputable Morale, Welfare and Recreation Program; and

WHEREAS, we locals have been able to detect only one flaw in this exemplary Naval Officer which is his weakness for "Pepper Vodka Oyster Shooters" and consequently, he is henceforth and forever "one of us"; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of this Commission to publicly recognize and acknowledge the effective leadership, accomplishments and inspiration Captain Lawrence S. Cotton, Jr., has provided to the Florida Keys during his tenure with us; now, therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA THAT:

Captain Lawrence S. Cotton, Jr. is hereby officially commended for his exemplary leadership and administration of the United States Naval Air Station in Monroe County, Florida during his tenure with a farewell that includes the sincere appreciation of the residents of the Florida Keys and a history of accomplishments that will forever include Captain Lawrence S. Cotton, Jr., United States Navy.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County, Florida, at a regular meeting of said Board held on the 18th day of June, 2003.

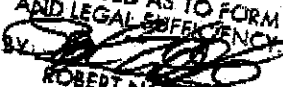
(SEAL)

Attest: DANNY L. KOLHAGE, CLERK

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By: _____
Deputy Clerk
Monroe County, Florida

By: _____
MAYOR
Monroe County, Florida

APPROVED AS TO FORM
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY
BY: 
ROBERT N. WOLFE
DATE 6-11-03